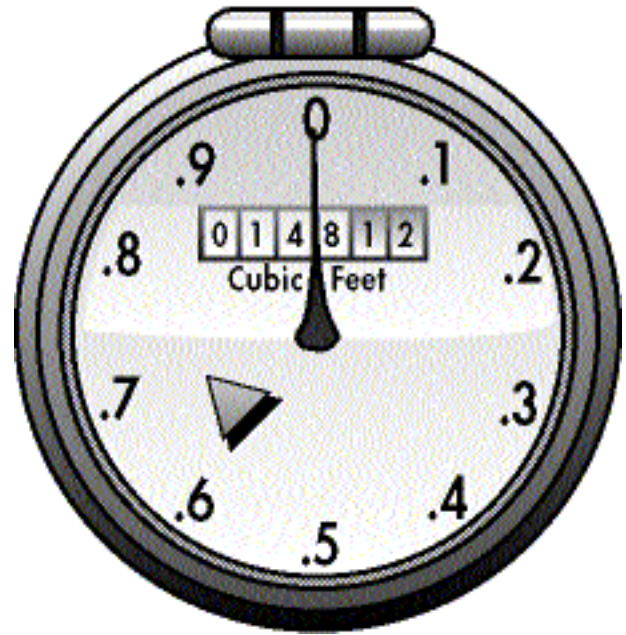


READING YOUR WATER METER

Your water meter (usually located in the ground at the front curb or in the alley) measures the amount of water used on the project site or in your household. It's a good idea to learn how to read it should you want to verify the monthly reading on your water bill. Your water meter also can be used as a "leak detective." It will also be necessary for conducting your landscape "volume based audit".

How to read it

Most water meters use straight-reading dials (like the one pictured above) which are read the same way you read your car's odometer. The meters measure water use in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons). Many water companies calculate water bills based on hundreds of cubic feet (Ccf) or per 748 gallons, the last two digits on the meter dial are dropped when the meter is read.



Straight-reading meter
This meter reads: 148 Ccfs

How to verify your monthly reading

Water company employees read your meter about the same day each month. The date the meter was read appears at the top of your bill. The reading is recorded in Ccf as Water Usage. To verify your monthly reading next month, read your meter on the same day it was read the previous month. Subtract your previous reading from this new reading to obtain your monthly water use. Remember to multiply the sum by 748 to convert to gallons.

Source: Homeowners' Guide to Using Water Wisely, Tucson Water, 2000, used with permission